



The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

October 10, 2012

Mr. Joel H. Peck
State Corporation Commission
Office of the Clerk
P.O. Box 1197
Richmond, Virginia 23218

Re: Proposed Dominion Virginia Transmission Line
Case No. PUE-2012-00029

Dear Mr. Peck:

We write on behalf of The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, Preservation Virginia, and the College of William & Mary to express opposition to the proposed location of the Dominion Virginia transmission line that would run across the James River from Surry to Skiffes Creek. The following provides background on the historical and economic significance of that area and support for our position.

Jamestown, Williamsburg, and Yorktown comprise the Historic Triangle. The James River and Jamestown, in particular, played a crucial role in the founding of Virginia and the nation. Jamestown was the first capital of Virginia and first seat of government. The English Protestant church in North America was founded at Jamestown, the first sustained contacts with Native Americans were established, and the first Africans arrived in 1619. In that same year the first representative assembly in the western hemisphere was held in the church on Jamestown Island, which was the beginning of a vibrant new political culture that eventually spread throughout the British colonies and culminated in the founding of the United States.

In Williamsburg, which succeeded Jamestown as the seat of government of the Virginia Colony, revolutionary ideas were developed that justified resistance to the British crown and formed the basis for the creation of a new kind of democratic society. In 1776, a Declaration of Rights was adopted at Williamsburg's capitol that provided the first articulation of the rights and responsibilities of the people (citizens), which became a model for other states and eventually for

"THAT THE FUTURE MAY LEARN FROM THE PAST"

Post Office Box 1776, Williamsburg, Virginia 23187-1776, Telephone: (757) 220-7200

the Bill of Rights. Before the war was won at Yorktown in 1781, Virginia's legislators in Williamsburg had already contributed principles that would be of fundamental importance in establishing the constitutional foundations of the United States.

Since early in the 19th century Jamestown, Williamsburg, and Yorktown have been recognized for their national significance. Their present international reputation derives from the combination of their historical roles and the preservation of their settings. The three sites have been actively preserved and linked by a scenic highway because they are so historically and visually compelling. Visitors to Jamestown experience views of the James River that are essentially unchanged since 1607. The extraordinary alliance of the National Park Service, APVA/Preservation Virginia, the Commonwealth, and John D. Rockefeller, Jr./ Colonial Williamsburg preserved these sites and wove them together with a great riverside highway in recognition of the unspoiled natural and historic man-made settings.

The damage that would occur to these extraordinary views from Jamestown and associated sites from the installation of a power transmission line across the James River from Surry to Skiffes Creek is sure to invite a national campaign of opposition. There are few views tied to the nation's history more compelling than those of the James River. The preservation of that viewshed is critical to portraying to future generations the history of the founding of America.

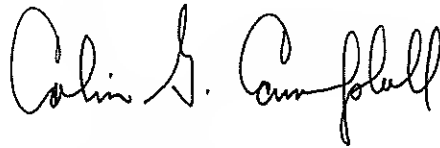
To underline the seminal importance of these three locations in the history of the nation, The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, together with Preservation Virginia and the College of William and Mary, has submitted an application to UNESCO (the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) requesting that the Historic Triangle be granted World Heritage status.

Such a designation, if granted, would, among other things, increase further the Historic Triangle's attraction for visitors from across the nation and from other countries. Visitation to the Historic Triangle and its historic sites and other attractions is estimated to total approximately 6 million individuals annually who contribute \$1 billion to the economy and generate approximately \$80 million annually in state and local tax revenues. In addition, the ongoing promotion of the Historic Triangle as the birthplace of America is a critical component of history tourism in the Commonwealth.

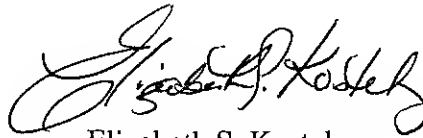
We are concerned that the proposed transmission line would compromise the effort to obtain World Heritage status and could diminish the Historic Triangle as an important economic driver in the region and in Virginia.

The installation of an overhead transmission line in the area being considered would be inconsistent with our shared responsibility to preserve the birthplace of the United States. Accordingly, we respectfully recommend that the proposed transmission line not be constructed over the James River from Surry to Skiffes Creek.

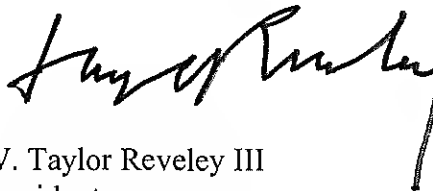
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Colin G. Campbell". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Colin" being the most prominent.

Colin G. Campbell
President and CEO
The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Elizabeth S. Kostelny". The signature is cursive and somewhat stylized, with the first name "Elizabeth" being the most prominent.

Elizabeth S. Kostelny
Secretary
Preservation Virginia

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "W. Taylor Reveley III". The signature is cursive and somewhat stylized, with the first name "W. Taylor" being the most prominent.

W. Taylor Reveley III
President
The College of William & Mary